

a monthly publication of the
Tennessee Valley Authority

InsideTVA

Volume 31, Issue 7
July 2011

Ready for the Call:

Training TVA's First Responders

STUDENTS AT TVA'S SAFETY
& EMERGENCY RESPONSE
TRAINING ACADEMY WORK TO
PUT OUT AN OIL FIRE.

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CONSULTANT SCOTT COOPER'S

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Inside TVA will be made available in alternate format, such as Braille, large print or audiocassette, upon request. For information, call 865-632-4676 (TTY 865-632-2178).

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Inside TVA is available on the TVA website at www.tva.com/insidetva



HOT TOPICS

Multi-Skill Program Provides New Training Opportunities

An agreement signed in March by TVA and the Trades & Labor Council for TVA annual employees formalized a new multi-skill program.

Peyton Hairston, TVA senior vice president of Diversity & Labor Relations, says the initiative provides new training opportunities for electrical and mechanical maintenance workers in the Fossil Power and Nuclear Power organizations.

“The program enables employees to become experts on the equipment maintained in their specialty area, reducing instances of faulty repairs that require rework,” says Robert Fisher, TVA senior vice president, Fossil Power Group.

As part of the program, a second Level II position – technician journeyman – has been created to help retain journeyman skills. In addition, training for a new Level IV specialty technician will begin by the end of fiscal year 2011.

“The multi-skill program’s vision is aligned with TVA’s renewed vision,” says Chief Nuclear Officer Preston Swafford. “The program improves TVA’s core business by offering TVA the ability to respond to the dynamic needs of the energy industry. It provides in-house experts who we can rely on to build wider safety margins, wider operating margins and greater reliability.”

Meetings are planned to roll out the program to electrical and mechanical maintenance employees at every fossil and nuclear plant.

— Julie Taylor



DAMIEN K. POWER

Fossil Power Group Senior Vice President Robert Fisher addresses TVA’s plant and maintenance managers and union business managers at a meeting hosted by TVA and the Trades & Labor Council for TVA annual employees.

Richard Howorth Sworn In as a TVA Board Member



CLETUS MITCHELL

Richard Howorth (right) is sworn in by his brother, Andrew K. Howorth, a circuit court judge.

The U.S. Senate voted on June 30 to approve the nomination of Richard Howorth for the TVA board of directors, and he was sworn in on July 13. His term will run through May 18, 2015. The TVA board is now at full strength with nine members.

Howorth, a graduate of the University of Mississippi, is the owner of Square Books, a leading independent bookstore in Oxford, which he founded in 1979. He is a former president and chairman of the board of the American Booksellers Association, the nation’s trade association of bookstores, established in 1900.

Howorth served two terms as the mayor of Oxford, from 2001 to 2009, when he chaired the authority overseeing the Oxford Electric Department. He also served eight years as a director and officer of the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association, a consortium of power association directors and city mayors in 29 Mississippi counties in the TVA service area.

ON THE COVER

COVER PHOTO – Fire training students, guided by instructors, work in teams to put out an oil fire at TVA’s Safety & Emergency Response Training Academy. The academy trains hundreds of TVA employees each year on how to fight the unique and challenging fires that can occur at their facilities. Photo by Damien K. Power.

On Wings of Leather

COUNTING NOSES IN THE BAT CAVES

BY DAMIEN K. POWER

Every year a group of intrepid TVA biologists set out to take a census of the population of bats living in the TVA service area. Working side by side with their compatriots from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, they fight to protect threatened species such as the grey bat (*myotis grisescens*), which take shelter in the caves along the Tennessee River.

"It's our responsibility as an agency to protect this species," says TVA Endangered Species Biologist Hill Henry. "We have counted the bats annually for the past 15 years because they are a federally endangered species."

One such cave sits literally on the Tennessee River, or more specifically, Nickajack Reservoir. The rectangular entry opens to what was once a Civil War saltpeter mine, prior to the construction of Nickajack Dam. Now flooded with several feet of water, the cave is further protected by an iron gate meticulously hung to keep anglers and recreational boaters and cavers from entering.

The reservoir's shoreline offers dozens of species of insects an ideal home and breeding ground, which in turn creates a veritable buffet for our flying mammalian friends. Dining on a smorgasbord of mayflies, moths, neuoptra, caddis flies and stone flies, thousands of bats swarm the dusk; zipping along at an average of 13 miles per hour.

"Inside the cave, closer to where they roost, we set up thermal cameras to more accurately capture them during their emergence," explains TVA Terrestrial Biologist Charles Hofer.

Keeping tabs on these small bats has been an important project, which has in recent years shown the species clawing its way back from endangered into merely threatened territory. Unfortunately, a new threat looms on the horizon: white nose syndrome.

A deadly fungus, white nose syndrome, makes its home on the faces and wings of several species of bats. Bat colonies afflicted with white nose syndrome have

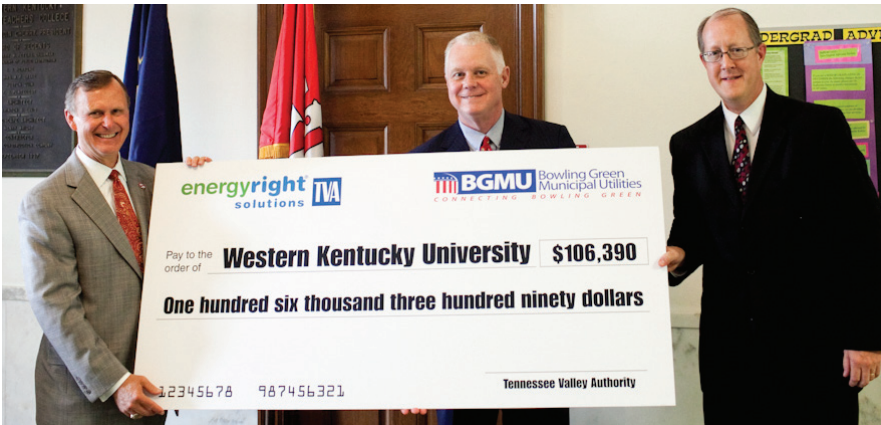
seen close to 90 percent mortality rates. While many bats are migratory, the most likely cause of this savage plague are recreational hikers tracking dirt from infected caves to caves that have not yet been affected.

"Currently, grey bats have not been found to have white nose syndrome," says Chris Simpson, a wildlife manager for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. "However, we are surveying caves across the state."

Go to the online *Inside TVA* to watch a video of the bat caves. ■

Below, TVA biologists and TWRA wildlife managers work near the Nickajack grey bat colony on Nickajack Reservoir. At right, TVA Terrestrial Biologist Charles Hofer equipped with his headlamp. Right bottom, TVA Endangered Species Biologist Hill Henry explains the need to monitor the bat population.





WKU President Gary Ransdell (left) receives the check from Tim Hughes, Distributor Delivery manager for TVA Customer Service in the Kentucky District, and Mark Iverson, Bowling Green Municipal Utilities general manager.

WKU Rewarded for Energy Savings

On June 27, TVA and Bowling Green Municipal Utilities presented a check for \$106,390 to Western Kentucky University to reward the university's investments in energy efficiency. Since joining TVA's EnergyRight Solutions for Business program in March 2010, WKU has trimmed electricity usage more than 500 kilowatts. The program, offered through Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, pays up to \$200 for every kilowatt saved.

Western Kentucky retrofitted or replaced more than 70,000 lights in 35 campus buildings, which will result in a savings of more than 4.7 million kilowatt-hours per year. The school also replaced three HVAC chiller units, which provide cool water for air conditioning. The new high-efficiency units replaced equipment more than 30 years old.

The initiatives were part of a larger campaign at WKU that included water conservation, improved insulation, harvesting rain water for irrigation and a solar collector to preheat the swimming pool at the Raymond B. Preston Health & Activities Center. In all, the school invested more than \$9.6 million in energy saving measures, with a guaranteed energy savings of more than \$1 million each year.



DAMIEN K. POWER

Get Ready to Scream for Ice Cream!

On June 24, Chief Information Officer Dan Traynor (above) and Director of Business Excellence Phil Zeringue served delicious Clumpies Ice Cream as a special thank you for Information Technology personnel's hard work during the first 50 days of IT1K – a 1,000-day transformation initiative to improve the way IT does business.



PAULA PENDERGRAFF

Tomorrow's Problem-Solvers

In a program sponsored by TVA to introduce girls to different technical careers, sixth grade girls from Muhlenberg (Ky.) South Middle School got the chance to actively problem-solve and create their own miniature "power plant" that generated electricity, as shown in the picture above. "The objective is to get these girls to think," says Paula Pendergraft of Workforce Solutions, which helped organize the event. "We know we can't teach them math or science in a day, but we can get them excited about knowing they can learn math and looking at other careers they typically would not consider."



National Trails Day Improvements

As part of TVA's National Trails Day campaign on June 4, TVA staff and volunteers improved six TVA-managed trails across the TVA service area. In the picture above, TVA Forester Darrell Cuthbertson, middle, and volunteers Avie Owenby, left, and Gene Brownell set the base for an information kiosk at East Lakeshore Trail along Tellico Reservoir.

Nozzle-Dam Jumpers

Well-trained employees go inside steam generators to perform a critical job during refueling outages.

BY SHANNON RIDINGER

Climbing into an 800-ton steam generator may not sound like most people's idea of a good time, but for an elite group of Nuclear Power employees, it's just part of a normal day during a refueling outage.

Employees who ordinarily work in various jobs across the nuclear sites volunteer to enter the steam generators to install and remove nozzle dams, the temporary closures that block the flow of water from the inlet-outlet nozzles. Known as "jumpers" because of the way they "jump" into the steam-generator bowls, the volunteers endure the discomfort of plastic jumpsuits worn over protective clothing topped with air-supplied bubble hoods. After intensive training and a thorough pre-job safety briefing, they work in highly radioactive, contaminated areas, often in hot temperatures, to complete their mission.

The Mission

There are two to four steam generators in a pressurized-water reactor. Steam generators are heat exchangers used to convert water into steam produced in a nuclear reactor core, like those at Sequoyah and Watts Bar nuclear plants. Nozzle dams consist of a metal center section attached to a rubber bladder that is joined together with two other metal end sections, which form a literal dam to hold back reactor coolant-system water.

During a refueling outage, the jumpers install the nozzle dams in each generator allowing work to be performed on the steam generators. The nozzle dams keep water from the reactor coolant system out of the steam generator so it can be inspected during refueling outages. Toward outage end, the team removes the dams restoring the steam generators to their normal condition for plant operation.

During the recent Unit 2 Refueling 17 outage at Sequoyah, 19 jumpers installed and removed eight nozzle dams (two per generator). Led by Engineering Support Manager Hussein Elbeitam, the team trained in a mock-up steam generator at Sequoyah months in advance of the outage. The training included a simulation of the actual environment inside the containment vessel, which houses the steam generators and reactor. Because of high radiation levels in the steam-generator bowls, the team learned to install and remove the dams quickly and efficiently to help ensure the lowest radiation dose possible.

"We have a great team," says Elbeitam. "Most of these guys come back year after year because they enjoy the work. We had no safety events, no human performance errors and no personal contamination events during this outage."

"This was an opportunity to do something different than my regular job," says



Bryan Klein trains as a steam generator jumper.

PHOTOS BY HUSSEIN ELBEITAM

Trevor Owens, a first-time jumper and mechanical design engineer at Sequoyah. "I really wanted to help Hussein, and it also gave me an opportunity to actually put my hands on plant equipment, getting my hands dirty and contributing to a significant outage task."

Brett McCreary, a long-time jumper and assistant to Hussein, says, "It is great having the new guys come on. What's significant, though, is that employees save TVA money every outage by volunteering. These savings can be passed on to other areas of outage maintenance or modifications at Sequoyah." ■

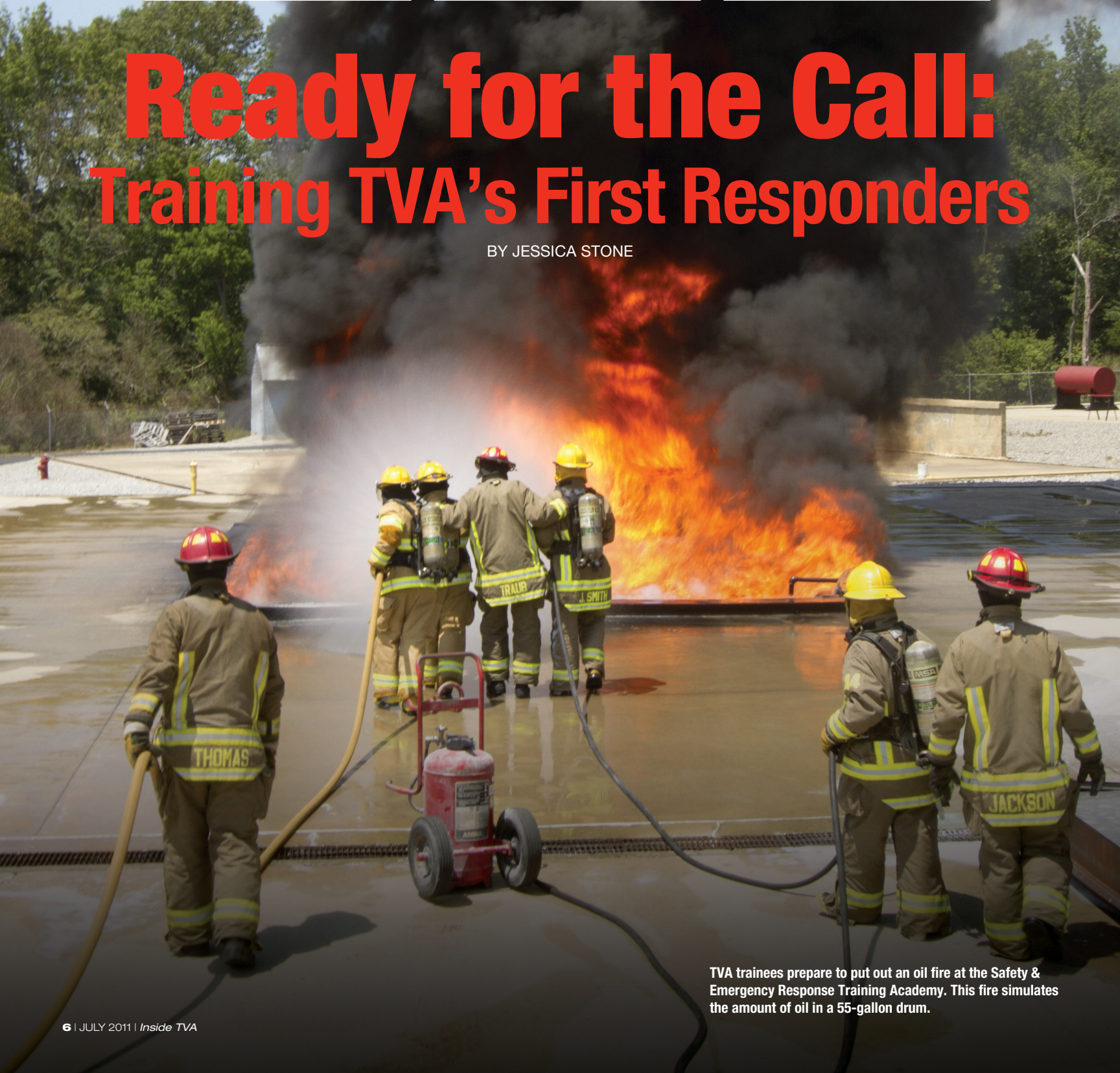


Members of the Sequoyah steam generator jump team are, left to right, in the back row Jeremy Hickey, Bryan Klein, Trevor Owens, Wigberto Flores-Hernandez, John Crawford, Blake Nida, Timothy Utley, Brett McCreary, Ron Ellison, Hussein M. Elbeitam, Terence Higgins and Ronald Beasley, and in the front row Jason Barrick, Monty Veal, John Lindley, Roosevelt Williams and Mickey Hogsed.



Ready for the Call: Training TVA's First Responders

BY JESSICA STONE



TVA trainees prepare to put out an oil fire at the Safety & Emergency Response Training Academy. This fire simulates the amount of oil in a 55-gallon drum.

Aug. 16, 2010, started out like any other typical day for John Downs and his Operations co-workers as they prepared to increase the load on Unit 1 at Cumberland Fossil Plant. Then, just after 6 p.m., they heard a loud boom as the Unit 1 B transformer exploded into flames.

“We heard the boom and then started getting all the alarms,” says Downs, a unit operator who was an assistant unit operator at the time of the accident. He and the rest of the fire brigade were on the scene within minutes to fight the fire.

“Everyone knew their role and worked together to get the fire out, keep the equipment cool and keep other equipment around the transformer from catching fire,” Downs says. “And we worked safely — pairing up, making sure no one got overheated or injured. We looked out for each other and the local fire-department responders, too.”

The reason they knew what to do is because Downs and his team were trained at a one-of-a-kind facility owned by TVA in Marion County, Tenn.

TVA’s Safety & Emergency Response Training Academy – or SERTA – has been in operation since the early 1980s and has provided classroom and hands-on training to countless TVA employees since opening. While the school provides training in medical, hazardous materials and rescue emergencies, the bulk of trainees — 500-plus a year — attend to get certified for site fire brigades. Each site in Nuclear Power, Fossil Power and River Operations is required to have a minimum number of people trained in firefighting.

Starting SERTA

Following a cable tray fire at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in 1975, TVA began to take a hard look at the fire training employees received.

“It was clear we needed some specialized training to fight

fires,” says Dykie Gentry, program manager for Fire & Technical Rescue Training. He says lessons learned from that fire drove TVA to look at what employees needed to successfully fight fires in an industrial setting.

Before SERTA was established, students were sent to a state-run training center in Murfreesboro, Tenn. While that school was effective to some extent, it focused on fires seen by municipal fire departments — like house fires. TVA facilities have unique components and situations that require additional knowledge.

“We focus on issues employees come across in the plants, like cable tray, electrical board and transformer fires,” says Phil Johnson, SERTA supervisor. “You handle these differently than a house fire.”

With average class sizes of 12-14 people, the classes teach the basics of how to fight fires of varying types and give students a chance to fight real fires. These fires, while controlled, are close simulations to the types of fires students are likely to see on the job.

Tailored to TVA

“Most utilities have a facility to provide fire training,” Johnson says. “But the unique thing about SERTA is that we are the only training center in the nation that has live fire simulations where students are taught how to put out fires on energized electrical lines.”

Once deemed too dangerous, putting out fires on “live” electrical lines is an exact science that can save time, lives and equipment.

“Safety and Human Performance tools are absolutely key to the training,” says Greg Lewis, manager of Emergency Response Training. “Our mission is to teach TVA employees to safely respond to an emergency situation at one of our sites to protect people, plant equipment and the environment.”

That mission comes to life when real-life events happen at TVA sites. “What we learned was very similar to the real event last August,” Downs adds. “People may think they won’t remember what they learned in class or that it will never happen at their plant, but it does happen, and we were well-prepared because of the training we got through SERTA.” ■



Academy staff and instructors are, left to right, Justin Thomas, Will Commins, Erin Moss, Phillip Johnson, Greg Lewis, Frank Rozzell, Jonathan Jackson, Dykie Gentry, Rob Traub, Steve James and Greg Van Horn.

my job rocks

BY JULIE TAYLOR

TVA employees are on the job 24/7, keeping the lights on, running the river system, managing TVA lands and supporting TVA's operations. In this column, you'll hear from TVA employees who can say, "My job rocks!"

SCOTT COOPER | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT



This year has been a whirlwind for Scott Cooper. He was hired by TVA in January, his wife had a baby in May and he was chosen as one of Chattanooga's 20 leaders under 40 in June.

Degree: Bachelor's degree in mass communication, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Hometown: Chattanooga

Family: Wife, Molly, and daughters Clarke Rose and Austin

Why TVA?

I had the opportunity to interact with TVA's Economic Development folks since 2004 in my former job and always admired the professionalism and knowledge they brought to the table.

Why does your job rock?

My group interacts with community leaders, existing businesses and prospective businesses across the Tennessee Valley. It's very satisfying when a community points to one of our programs as a catalyst for attracting a new company, expanding an existing business or spurring a new community initiative. With 20 counties and three states in my territory, no day is ever the same. That keeps it fun and interesting.

What's challenging about your job?

I'm constantly challenged by all the acronyms. It's like alphabet soup every day.

How are you helping TVA realize its vision?

My group is spreading the vision message on our travels throughout the Tennessee Valley. It's the backbone of everything we do.

Who would you like to shadow at TVA?

I think it would be interesting to shadow a transmission line crew. I'm sure these folks have an unmatched perspective on things.

First job?

My first real job was working at a golf course, mowing greens, racking traps and dodging golf balls.

If you had an afternoon off, what would you do?

The left-field bleachers at Wrigley Field sound pretty good to me.

Favorite movie?

It's a tie between *Shawshank Redemption* and *The Sting*.

Favorite TV show?

Seinfeld, hands down.

How did you get selected for Chatter Magazine's "20 Under 40"?

I just got a call one day. My brother was selected as well. It's a pretty cool honor for my family.

CALLING ALL ROCKERS

If your job rocks, we want to know! Send an email to Insidetva@tva.gov.

MAKE PLANS NOW TO JOIN FELLOW RETIREES FOR THE FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP AT THE

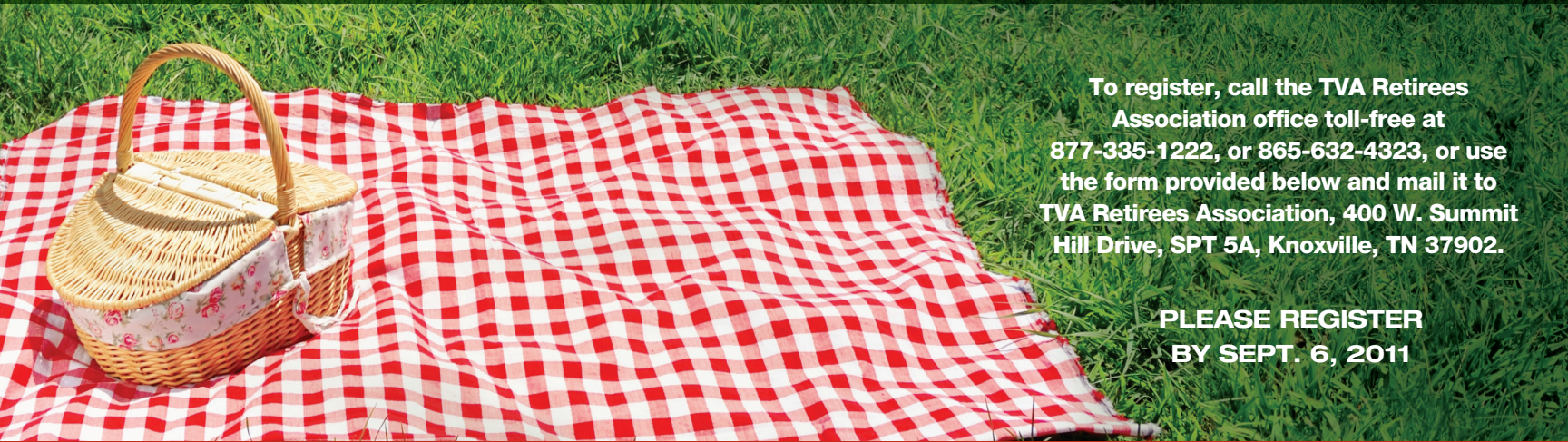
TVA Retirees Annual Picnic

SPONSORED BY TVA

WHEN: Friday, Sept. 16, 2011

WHERE: Civitan Park, Guntersville, Ala. Picnic begins at 10 a.m. CDT

The picnic is free for retirees and their spouse or guest | Additional guests are only \$8 each



To register, call the TVA Retirees Association office toll-free at 877-335-1222, or 865-632-4323, or use the form provided below and mail it to TVA Retirees Association, 400 W. Summit Hill Drive, SPT 5A, Knoxville, TN 37902.

**PLEASE REGISTER
BY SEPT. 6, 2011**

TVA Retirees Annual Picnic sponsored by TVA

Friday, Sept. 16, 2011 | Guntersville, Ala. at Civitan Park

IT'S FREE TO RETIREES AND ONE GUEST. EACH ADDITIONAL GUEST IS \$8.

Name of retiree

Retiree home address

Spouse or guest name

City

Retiree phone number

State Zip

Additional guests (please enclose \$8 for each additional guest 12 years old and older).

Make checks payable to BVI. Send to:
TVA Retirees Association, 400 W. Summit Hill Drive, SPT 5A, Knoxville, TN 37902.

DIRECTIONS — To get directions from your house, go to a website such as MapQuest and enter the following address for your destination: 1150 Sunset Drive, Guntersville, Ala. 35976

BUS TRANSPORTATION

CHATTANOOGA — A bus from Chattanooga will be available for \$15 per person (non-refundable). To make pre-paid reservations, contact C.D. Heidel at 423-476-6497 by Sept. 6.

KNOXVILLE — A bus will not be available from Knoxville.

MUSCLE SHOALS — A bus from Muscle Shoals will be available for \$15 per person (refundable up to Sept. 6). To make prepaid reservations, contact Cameron Kay at 256-810-6569.

new retirees

36 Years

Douglas E. Washburn, COO, Chattanooga

33 Years

James L. Brooks, COO, Rogersville, Tenn.
Juan E. Gonzalez, Strategy & External Relations,
Chattanooga

32 Years

Stanton M. Guinn, COO, Benton

31 Years

Jesse D. Savage Jr., COO, Decatur, Ala.

30 Years

Donna J. Green, People & Performance,
Chattanooga

**For a list of other recent retirees,
see the online *Inside TVA*.**

Racquet Man

George Provost Connects His Love of the Game With Love of People

BY BROOKS CLARK

George Provost didn't set out to become a tennis teacher. It just happened that way.

Provost, 66, retired in 1999 as a procurement specialist in Chattanooga after 27 years at TVA. He had taken up tennis when he first started with TVA.

Growing up in New Iberia, La., Provost had played baseball and basketball and run track, and he had always liked tennis. He got involved with the Racqueteers tennis club at Chattanooga's Warner Park, captained a U.S. Tennis Association team that won a state championship and gave some lessons to eager students.

One of his pupils was TVA Management Assistant Mae Eggleston. "George was a very patient teacher and great at analyzing the game," says Eggleston. "All I had to do was call and tell him about my match; he would then ask me questions and analyze why I won or lost, and then tell me what I needed to do to improve."

Before long, Provost became president of the Racqueteers.

"We had someone who was teaching kids," he says. "One day he said he couldn't do it anymore. Somebody had to do it, so it ended up being me." Provost coached groups of 40 to 50 children twice a week for five years.

In 2000, Provost started a larger club, the Chattanooga River City Tennis Association, which plays on the 11 courts at the Brainerd Recreation Center. He's coached there, on Monday and Thursday evenings, ever since, usually about 40 kids and some adults.

"It's gratifying to provide instruction to inner-city kids and to watch them continue with tennis," he says. Two former pupils went on to play for Baylor School located at the foot of Signal Mountain in Chattanooga. One, Ashley Macon, played for two years at the University of the South. The other, Jarius Anderson-Baylor, played intramural tennis at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Both are now in medical school.

"It wasn't something I had planned," says Provost. "It's just the way the cards fell. Once you take these jobs, you can't give them up." ■



Applause!



Paradise Fossil Plant was recognized by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve forces. Paradise General Manager **Aaron Melda** was presented with a Patriotic Employer Award by Kentucky State Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory D. Armstrong of the National Guard. Several Paradise employees are currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Others are active members of the National Guard and Reserves. Left to right, in the front row, are Paradise Assistant Unit Operator **Chad Larkin**, **Gregory Armstrong** and **Aaron Melda**. In the back row are Paradise Operations Manager **Clif Seaton** and Assistant Unit Operators **Chad Hadley**, **Todd Stovall** and **J.P. Sweatt**.



Judy Bair, Certified Professional Secretary/Certified Administrative Professional, a business support representative in Environment & Technology, has been elected the 2011-2012 Tennessee Division Secretary of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.



Rachael Welch



Deanna Fults



John Trawick

Rachael Welch, manager of Business Support in Information Technology, was a member of the Leadership Chattanooga graduating class of 2011. Equal Opportunity Compliance Analyst **Deanna Fults** and Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations & Pricing **John Trawick** were members of the 2011 Leadership Knoxville team. Each Leadership class takes part in a 10-month program to develop leadership skills and prepare individuals for prominent business, political and cultural roles in their communities.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE

BY JULIE TAYLOR

MICHAELYN HARLE
Archaeologist, Environment & Technology



DAMIAN K. POWER

Every day, Archeologist Michaelyn Harle (above, holding a pottery shard) works with watershed teams to help ensure TVA projects and permits don't impact thousands of archeological sites on TVA lands.

Harle grew up in Harrisburg, Pa., and became a TVA contractor four years ago while working on her doctorate at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She was hired by Environment & Technology's Environmental Permits & Compliance group in April.

"My co-workers are very passionate about protecting TVA's natural and cultural resources," Harle says. "Their enthusiasm is infectious."

Her group is also involved in public outreach.

"Getting kids excited about archeology and protecting sites on TVA lands is very rewarding," Harle says. Her own love for archeology dates back to a family vacation to Greece when she was 13.

Harle says TVA's rich legacy of archeology contributed to her decision to come to TVA.

"During the 1930s and 1940s, many significant archeological sites were excavated prior to the inundation of TVA reservoirs," she says. "TVA was instrumental in establishing southeastern archeology as a discipline and understanding the prehistory of this region. I am very proud to be a part of this continuing legacy."

For a list of employees hired in June,
see the online edition of *Inside TVA*.

20 YEARS OF Energizing the Future

Three hundred rising seventh and eighth graders from across Tennessee explored the world of energy, electricity and other basic sciences at the 2011 4-H Electric Camp. The camp is a joint venture of the University of Tennessee Extension, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association and TVA. At the three-day camp, students learned how to craft their own electric meter lamps, heard about energy conservation and green energy generation, drove several electric vehicles and were taught to play it safe around high-voltage power lines.

Christy Cagle-Brooks, program manager for Energy-Efficient Delivery, shows 4-H students that it takes less energy to light four compact fluorescent bulbs than a comparable number of incandescent bulbs.

